against the demand of 473.18 million tonnes for Tenth Five Year Plan as assessed by the Planning Commission during mid-term appraisal.

(c) and (d) Yes, Sir. As per the plan a production level of 593 million tonnes will be achieved by the end of Eleventh Plan period. To bridge the gap between demand and availability of coal, following steps have been taken to ensure adequate availability of coal:

(i) Coal India Limited has been asked to increase production from existing mines and expedite production from new projects.

(ii) 48 coal mining blocks have been identified for allocation for captive mining. Out of these, 89 coal blocks have been allotted/decided for allocation to various companies and more are under process.

(iii) State and Central Government companies are being allotted coal mining blocks without restriction of captive mining.

(iv) Exploration for new coal blocks has been expedited.

(v) Procedure for project approvals has been streamlined.

(vi) Ministry of Power has been advised to import about 14 million tonnes of coal during 2005-06.

(e) As per existing policy, no temporary coal linkage was granted to any consumer during the last three years.

(f) Does not arise in view of reply given to part (e) above.

Meeting the demand for coal

1657. SHRI EKANATH K. THAKUR:
SHRI R.K. ANAND:

Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that although India has the third largest reserves of coal in the world, the import of coal has been high and rising due to high ash content and also due to Government's restrictive policies in the coal sector;

(b) whether it is a fact that Government are turning its attention to promote acquisition of coal mines abroad to meet the country's growing demand for coal; and

(c) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COAL (DR. DASARI NARAYAN RAO) : (a) The total coal resources of India as on 1.1.2005 is estitamted to be 247.85 billion tonnes. Out of which 52 billion tonnes (Apprόx.) is estimated to be extractable. Import of coal is rising due to limited indigenous availability of low ash coking and non-coking coal, environmental consideration necessitating use of imported coal and consideration of location specific landed cost.

(b) and (c) With a view to enhance the energy security, Coal India Limited is exploring possibility of acquiring properties having good quality coking coal and low ash non-coking coal in foreign countries.

Action against non-productive companies

†1658. SHR DILIP SINGH JUDEV: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to refer to answer to Unstarred Question 3729 given in the Rajya Sabha on 28th April, 2005 and state:

(a) the action taken against the companies who have not started production in spite of allotment of coal blocks;

(b) the companies which have already started production and whether they have been authorized to sell coal to other companies;

(c) if so, the amount of coal that is being sold by the private coal producing companies every year in the said period; and

(d) if not, the details of action taken against them?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COAL (DR. DASARI NARAYAN RAO) : (a) The allocatees of coal blocks who have not started production so far are in various stages in the process of obtaining lease and installation of their end-use projects. The progress achieved by them against certain given milestones are reviewed by the Screening Committee from time to time and if the desired progress is not achieved despite consistent persuation, the blocks are de-allocated. So far three coal blocks have already been de-allocated for want of satisfactory progress in development of coal block and installation of end-use projects. Notices to 10 companies have been issued for slippages on their part in achieving the milestones.

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.